THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Eleven Schemes aggregating to Rs. 314.928 lakhs for improvement and development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh have been approved during 1992-93 upto 12th March, 1993. Out of these, three are for culvers, three for hard shoulders, one for Road Over Bridge, one for land acquisition and three for works of miscellaneous nature.

(b) The details of proposals for 1993-94 will be known only after the Demands for Grants for 1993-94 are voted by Parliament.

(c) and (d) Three sites along National Highways in Andhra Pradesh Pradesh have been identified for setting up of passenger-oriented wayside amenities. Of these, the two located at Palamaner on N.H. No. 4 and Zaheerabad on N.H. No. 9 are under the Government sponsored scheme while the third located at Km. 82 of Hyderabad-Vijaywada Section on N. H. No. 9 is under the private sector sponsored scheme.

Viability of State Roadways Transport Undertakings

2883. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Roadways Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) operating in the country at present;

(b) how many of these are earning profit;

(c) the cumulative loss of loss making SRTUs;

(d) the reasons for huge losses and the steps taken to make these undertakings economically viable;

(e) whether there is any proposal to privatise SRTUs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are 21 State Road Transport Undertakings registered under the RTC Act.

(b) During the year 1991-92, three SRTCs earned profit.

(c) As on 31-3-1992 the cumulative losses of SRTUs has been Rs. 3339.38 crores.

(d) The main reasons for the losses are:—

1. Uneconomic fare structure due to SRTUs inability to obtain timely revisions based on the rising input cost;
2. Concessions given to various sections of the society such as students, the handicapped persons, freedom fighters; journalists as so on.
3. Operation of late-night, early morning services in the urban areas and to remote villages in the rural areas.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Check posts and Railway crossing in the Country

2884. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study has revealed that there are over 5000 check posts and 41000 railway crossings in the country where vehicles have to stop very frequently for one reason or the other;

(b) whether any study has also revealed that 15 per cent of the total fuel consumed by all types of automobiles is being wasted at these check posts and railway crossings;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to reduce the number of check posts and railway crossings in the country to save petroleum products?